



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,386	07/06/2004	Mei-Tai Chou	ACMP0117USA	4385
27765 7590 05/04/2007 NORTH AMERICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CORPORATION P.O. BOX 506 MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			EXAMINER WASHINGTON, JAMARES	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2609	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/04/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

winstonhsu.uspto@gmail.com
Patent.admin.uspto.Rcv@naipo.com
mis.ap.uspto@naipo.com.tw

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,386

Applicant(s)

CHOU ET AL.

Examiner

Jamares Washington

Art Unit

2609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/07/2005, 07/26/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koichi Matsumoto (US 20020101623 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Matsumoto discloses an image-processing apparatus (“..the present invention provides an image communication apparatus including operation instructing means for instructing...an image processing operation” at paragraph [14]) comprising:

a plurality of function buttons for controlling the operation of the image-processing apparatus (Fig. 2 “...block diagram showing the operation unit 106 in the aforesaid embodiment” at paragraph [33]);

a lock button for enabling and disabling the plurality of function buttons (“...the key lock switch is a switch that turns on when operation keys are locked and turns off when the operation keys are made to be a reset state ...” at paragraph [68]);

and a display device for displaying the condition of the image-processing apparatus and the plurality of function buttons (“...the fact that the operation unit disable mode is set is displayed on the display units 203...” at paragraph [46]. “...a display unit 203 for urging various operations and displaying error (or caution) information...” at paragraph [34]).

Regarding claim 2, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a timer for calculating a first time for the image-processing apparatus to disable the plurality of function buttons after the first time (“A timer 1 is a timer that automatically enters into a key lock state...” at paragraph [68]), under the condition of the plurality of function buttons being originally enabled (“...after a predetermined time after the reset of the key lock” at paragraph [68]).

Regarding claim 3, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 2 wherein the timer further calculates a second time for the image-processing apparatus to enable the plurality of function buttons after the second time (“The sixth embodiment combines the identification of time with the second embodiment... accepts predetermined operation only at an appointed time by adding the step of identification of time (Step S168) when the key lock switch is reset” at paragraph 100), under the condition of the plurality of function buttons being originally disabled (“...the limitation of a user by means of an appointed time can be realized by combining the timer function” at paragraph [101]).

Regarding claim 4, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a password protection device for setting up a password for the lock button to enable and disable the plurality of function buttons (There must exist a device for setting up passwords to implement the password protection as described in the 5th embodiment), so that the password is required when the lock button enables and disables the plurality of function buttons (“...the identification of a password added at Steps S157 and S158 makes the system accept a predetermined operation only when the password is identified” at paragraph [95]).

Regarding claim 5, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the image-processing apparatus is connected to a computer, and the image-processing apparatus can receive and execute commands from the computer (“A printer interface unit 114 converts file data from a personal computer to a printer description language at the time of the performance of the printing of the file data. A communication unit 116 is composed of a modem,

Art Unit: 2609

a network controlling unit or the like for communicating with other telecommunication equipment” at paragraph [32]).

Regarding claim 6, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of function buttons includes a copy button for enabling the image-processing apparatus to copy documents (“a copying start key 213 for starting copying” at paragraph [35]).

Regarding claim 7, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 6 wherein when the copy button is pressed when the copy button is disabled, the display device displays an unlock message (The apparatus described in the reference has “a display unit 203 for urging various operations” at paragraph [34]. An operation performed by the apparatus is the “system [accepting] a predetermined operation only when the password is identified” at paragraph [95]. An unlock message in this case would be the prompt for user to enter the password to perform the operation.).

Regarding claim 9, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a multifunction product (MFP) (The scan/fax/print/copy functions of the apparatus disclosed throughout the reference constitutes an MFP).

Regarding claim 10, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a printer (Fig. 1 numerals 114 and 115).

Art Unit: 2609

Regarding claim 11, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a scanner (Fig. 1 numerals 111 and 112).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koichi Matsumoto (US 20020101623 A1) in combination with Masahiro Sakamoto (US 5719686 A).

Regarding claim 8, Matsumoto discloses the image-processing apparatus of claim 1 including the display device.

Matsumoto does not disclose the display device being a light emitting diode (LED) or a liquid crystal display (LCD).

However, Sakamoto discloses an “image communication apparatus” (at column 3 line 19) “...provided with an LCD 31 for displaying the time in normal state, state of the apparatus and content of the set mode; [and] LED displays 32a-32d for indicating the selected modes...” (at column 5 line 36).

Art Unit: 2609

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have an LCD display as disclosed by Sakamoto as the display unit as disclosed by Matsumoto because Liquid Crystal Displays consists of two glass plates with liquid crystal material between them. There is no bulky picture tube, therefore this makes LCD practical for applications where size (as well as weight) are important.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamares Washington whose telephone number is (571) 270-1585. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner can be reached on (571) 272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jamares Washington

Art Unit: 2609

Junior Examiner
Art Unit 2609

JW

04/27/07

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

BRIAN WERNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER